



For immediate release
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Rapid Response Team activated to aid Eric Scott Leathers employees

STE. GENEVIEVE, Mo. -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers that have been dislocated by layoffs at Eric Scott Leathers Ltd. in Ste. Genevieve, Mo.

The Rapid Response Team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's (DED) Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Southeast Missouri, responds to the needs of workers who have lost or will lose their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Eric Scott Leathers employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The Rapid Response Team will provide these workers with comprehensive re-employment services and constructive job training assistance to help them find suitable employment as quickly as possible," Driskill said.

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the WIB of Southeast Missouri are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. A community meeting will be held with these individuals from 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, Feb. 9, at the Ste. Genevieve County Community Center at 21390 Highway 32 to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

The manufacturer of leather business products laid off approximately 65 employees in January due to a decline in business.

"As the economy slows following an unprecedented eight-year expansion, many companies are restructuring, often through mergers, in order to remain competitive," Driskill said. "Unfortunately these changes can have an adverse affect on some employees. I encourage area employers that are in need of employees to consider hiring these hard working individuals."

Employers interested in hiring Eric Scott Leathers workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can call **DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or the WIB of Southeast Missouri at 1-800-451-0990**.